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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 259

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

DECEMBER, 1964

Employment Picture Changes As Winter Begins

Jobs Decline Seasonally—The start of the winter labor market cycle in Montana made its first showing on employment directions during November. Following historically set patterns of reduced winter activity, employment in non-agricultural industries declined by 3,400 from the October total. Estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics placed the mid-November total of employed non-farm workers at 174,800. This was 1,800 below the November, 1963 non-farm employment figure.

Outdoor Work Most Vulnerable—Seasonal employment declines during November came chiefly from those industries which succumb easily to adverse weather conditions. Snow and cold weather took a heavy toll of workers in building and highway construction logging, forest service, agriculture, and other outdoor activities.

Construction Drops 1,100—Payrolls of construction contractors showed 10,900 workers employed on a variety of building and highway projects during November, a drop of 1,100 from October payrolls. Bad weather forced the suspension of work on most highway, dam, and commercial and industrial building projects by the end of November. Work will resume on some if the weather moderates. Interior and finish work continued without interruption on some enclosed structures including a new shopping center in Helena.

Weather Plagues Logging—Activity in logging and lumbering normally rolls along at a fast pace from May to November. Then the winter season starts. Deep snow in the mountainous timber areas makes logging almost impossible. Logging contractors lay off woods workers, and log shortages either reduce operations or force temporary closure of some mills. This was the situation which caused a drop of 700 in lumber and timber products employment this November.

Mining Payrolls Up—In the total mining group, including metal mining, coal, quarrying, non-metallic operations, and petroleum and natural gas production, the November employment figure of 7,700 was 100 above the previous month. This employment increase was all in the petroleum industry. Employment this November in the total mining group was 400 above November 1963 with an increase of 600 in metal mining employment outweighing a loss of 200 in the petroleum industry.

Trade and Government Down 600—Employment in both trade and government was down 600 each from October to November. Declines of 300 each occurred at the federal and the state and local levels of government. Federal employment separations were mostly in the forest service, irrigation services, and national parks. The drop in trade was all in retail firms and centered chiefly in food stores, cafes and bars,

and service stations where extra workers were hired for the summer season.

Minor Changes In Others—Employment in finance, insurance and real estate firms, and in the transportation, communications and utilities group was down by 100 in November. The service industries, with 24,300 on November payrolls, showed no change from the prior month.

Farm Labor Demand Subsides—Total agricultural employment contracted by 900 during November to a total of 33,100. Demand for farm and ranch workers diminished in nearly every area of the state as the heavy work season passed. Most calls were for livestock care and feeding operations in those areas hit hardest by the first severe storm of this winter. Livestock losses were reported to be substantial in the northeastern section of the state.

UCC Claims Rise—After dropping to the lowest level in eight years during the good employment months last summer, claims for jobless benefits started the winter uptrend during November. The claim increase during the month was 2,300 bringing the statewide total to 5,146 at month's end. Most of the new claims came from construction workers idled by bad weather. About one-fifth of the total claims were filed by jobless women released mainly from seasonal jobs in trade and service firms.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Oct. 1964	Sept. 1964	Oct. 1963	Oct. 1964	Sept. 1964	Oct. 1963	Oct. 1964	Sept. 1964	Oct. 1963	Oct. 1964	Sept. 1964	Oct. 1963	Oct. 1964	Sept. 1964	Oct. 1963
All Manufacturing	3.7	5.3	4.4	3.4	4.0	3.6	5.1	7.7	5.3	2.5	5.1	2.1	1.5	1.3	2.1
Durable Goods	4.0	6.2	5.1	3.6	4.5	4.1	5.5	8.7	5.3	2.8	6.3	2.2	1.5	1.0	1.7
Primary Metal	2.6	8.2	5.6	2.1	2.7	2.9	4.0	7.0	3.5	.9	6.2	.4	1.3	*	1.3
Nondurable Goods	2.9	3.6	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.5	4.1	5.8	5.3	1.8	2.9	2.0	1.6	1.8	2.8
All Mining	5.0	5.6	8.0	2.5	3.2	4.1	6.2	8.5	6.4	2.8	6.0	3.5	.8	.9	.5
Metal Mining	5.3	6.1	8.2	1.7	2.9	3.3	7.2	9.1	4.7	3.3	6.4	1.7	.4	.6	.8

*Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary November 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(318 jobseekers, 83 new, 225 men, 93 women). Most new layoffs caused by diminishing construction, shutdown of copper concentrator, and furlough of 50 railroad workers. Normal seasonal declines prevail in other industry groups with very little hiring in any. Big drop in farm hires.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,224 jobseekers, 834 new, 1,510 men, 714 women). Substantial weather-caused declines occurred in construction and outdoor work during much of November. Yellowtail Dam work force dropped from a September peak of 1,200 to about 350. Highway projects furloughed over 500 men. Work on smaller projects occupies several hundred workers. Brisk activity noted in trade and service units during holiday season. 600 still employed in sugar beet refineries.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(398 jobseekers, 248 new, 261 men, 137 women). Adverse weather shut down various road and building projects including new junior high school. Logging operations still unaffected by weather with continuing demand for timber fallers. Log shortages may reduce mill operations. Good seasonal trends cover trade activities. Farm labor demand chiefly for livestock care and feeding.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,087 jobseekers, 450 new, 628 men, 459 women). Closed construction projects and workers seeking holiday work increased jobseeker files as November ended. Department store and meat packing plant hiring provided most job orders. Recruitment of experienced hard rock miners continues.

CUT BANK—(200 jobseekers, 50 new, 137 men, 63 women). Job placements down 45 per cent from last year due mainly to lengthy labor dispute and bad weather. Labor market activity not too optimistic for balance of winter season. Some improvement in farm labor demand over last year.

DILLON—(171 jobseekers, 76 new, 138 men, 33 women). Industry and farm hiring depressed by bad weather. Good agenda of construction contracts let but work delayed or postponed by weather conditions. Some building projects near completion, including rest

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Nov. 64	Oct. 64	Nov. 63	Oct. 64 to Nov. 64	Nov. 63 to Nov. 64
Civilian Work Force	247.4	248.2	249.4	—0.8	—2.0
Total Employment	237.2	240.8	238.3	—3.6	—1.1
Total Non-agricultural Employment	204.1	208.6	205.4	—4.5	—1.3
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	174.8	178.2	176.6	—3.4	—1.8
Total Agricultural Employment	33.1	32.2	32.9	0.9	0.2
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.1	0	0.1
Total Unemployment	10.0	7.2	11.0	2.8	—1.0
Percent Unemployed	4.0	2.9	4.4		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	4.4	5.4		

home. Farm operators hiring at minimum.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(204 jobseekers, 70 new, 113 men, 91 women). Hiring compares favorably with last year but announced closure of air base should show effects in months to come. Heavy layoffs of construction and building trade workers noted. Trade and service industry layoffs noted in neighboring towns.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(196 jobseekers, 72 new, 120 men, 76 women). Severe weather conditions left its mark on the labor scene. Construction work either shut down completely or put behind schedule. Opening of new shopping center delayed. Trends in other industry groups not too active.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,318 jobseekers, 581 new, 773 men, 545 women). Industry hiring trends not too sharp except in trade and service segments which provided most job orders. Bad weather caused curtailment of most construction activity with little hope of immediate resumption. Hiring slowed in manufacturing, government, public utilities, and others. Demand for livestock feeders increased as weather worsened.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(178 jobseekers, 74 new, 140 men, 38 women). Local construction holds up fairly well with work on \$600,000 telephone building, \$150,000 sawmill, and \$50,000 night club and homebuilding. Logging and sawmill employment still good with some adjustments. Farm labor demand reduced by poor market prices, but potato sorting operations provided some jobs.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(253 jobseekers, 93 new, 205 men, 48 women).

Labor activity in farm and industry declining in line with the winter season. Holiday labor demand in trade establishments not too brisk, with hiring chiefly for replacements only. Most farm activity at standstill but some demand for livestock feeders.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(412 jobseekers, 227 new, 261 men, 151 women). Seasonal employment declines starting to show in construction, logging, and other outdoor industries. Main construction projects include shopping center and addition to cement plant, with 75 employed. Trade and service staffs at good levels.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(943 jobseekers, 362 new, 662 men, 281 women). Substantial employment drops noted in construction, sawmills, and Christmas tree harvest by late November. Moderate declines occurred in trade and service firms. Farm labor demand exhibited some uptrend, mostly for maintenance and repair work.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(222 jobseekers, 82 new, 146 men, 76 women). Snow and cold weather adversely affected labor trends in both farm and industry. All construction projects are shut down. Passive trends prevailed in main street establishments with very little labor demand.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(228 jobseekers, 41 new, 146 men, 82 women). Employment in outdoor industries diminishing as highway projects closed for the winter and activity in others limited by weather. Log shortages shortened work weeks at sawmills. Trade and service fairly active. Railroad employment still good.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.3	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.6	174.0	181.3	182.3	183.0	180.9	178.2	174.8*		

*Preliminary Estimate

All employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1963 to date will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary November 1

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(187 jobseekers, 98 new, 98 men, 89 women). Overall labor market activity showed good trends during November with exception of construction which was reduced considerably from last year. Trade and service volume at fairly good levels.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee Superior—(1,033 jobseekers, 487 new, 700 men, 333 women). Employment trends still holding up well in most industry groups. Some seasonal changes evident in construction and other outdoor endeavors. Manufacturing, trade, and service keep good pace. Farm economy hurt by low livestock prices and low sugar beet yields.

POLSON—(170 jobseekers, 50 new, 128 men, 42 women). Job hiring down from last month and last year. No major construction or public works projects during 1964. Normal trends cover logging and sawmill operations but hiring limited. Practically no farm labor demand.

SHELBY—(105 jobseekers, 42 new, 79 men, 26 women). Local area economic trends better than last year due to good farm crops and extended construction season. Some seasonal declines became apparent as November ended. Trade and service volume holding up well.

SIDNEY—(133 jobseekers, 74 new, 96 men, 37 women). Start of the winter season left its mark on the labor market scene. Bad weather had effects on outside work and all farm activities. New job applications up 40 percent from October as job opportunities lessened.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(116 jobseekers, 55 new, 94 men, 22 women). New unemployment stemmed chiefly from curtailed construction, end of Christmas tree harvest, and reduction of forest service personnel for the season. Weather starting to cut into logging but overall picture not too bad.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(191 jobseekers, 100 new, 160 men, 31 women). Seasonal declines in construction, cafes, hotels, and farm implement firms noted during November. Oil field activity increased as new rigs moved into drilling locations. Farm labor demand limited.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Nov. 1964 (2)	Oct. 1964 (3)	Nov. 1963	Oct. '64 to Nov. '64	Nov. '63 Against Nov. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	174,800	178,200	176,600	-3,400	-1,800
Manufacturing	22,400	23,400	22,300	-1,000	100
Durable goods	13,200	14,000	13,600	-800	400
Lumber and timber products	8,300	9,000	8,700	-700	400
Primary metals	3,300	3,300	3,200	00	100
Other (4)	1,600	1,700	1,700	-100	100
Nondurable goods	9,200	9,400	8,700	-200	500
Food and kindred products	5,500	5,700	5,100	-200	400
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	900	900	800	00	100
Mining	7,700	7,600	7,300	100	400
Metal mining	4,800	4,800	4,200	00	600
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,900	1,800	2,100	100	200
Contract Construction	10,900	12,000	12,800	-1,100	-1,900
Contractors, building construction	4,000	4,200	4,400	-200	400
Contractors, other than building	3,100	3,600	4,400	-500	-1,300
Contractors, special trade	3,800	4,200	4,000	-400	200
Transportation and utilities	17,600	17,700	17,500	-100	100
Interstate railroads	7,700	7,700	7,900	00	200
Transportation except railroads	4,000	4,000	3,900	00	100
Utilities including communication	5,900	6,000	5,700	-100	200
Trade	40,400	41,000	41,600	-600	-1,200
Wholesale trade	8,200	8,200	8,800	00	600
Retail trade	32,200	32,800	32,800	-600	600
General merchandise and apparel	6,400	6,300	6,300	100	100
Food stores	5,000	5,400	5,300	-400	300
Eating and drinking establishments	8,400	8,700	8,100	-300	300
Automotive and filling stations	6,400	6,500	6,800	-100	400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,000	5,900	6,300	100	300
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,900	6,800	-100	00
Services and miscellaneous	24,300	24,300	23,800	00	500
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,800	3,000	2,700	-200	100
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Other (6)	19,400	19,200	19,000	200	400
Government	44,700	45,300	44,500	-600	200
Federal	10,800	11,100	12,000	-300	-1,200
State and local	33,900	34,200	32,500	-300	1,400
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	21,900	22,100	22,000	-200	100
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,100	00	00
Contract construction	2,300	2,400	2,200	-100	100
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,400	5,500	5,600	-100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,600	3,600	00	00
Government	4,000	4,000	4,000	00	00
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	25,300	25,600	24,900	-300	400
Manufacturing	3,400	3,600	3,300	-200	100
Contract construction	2,200	2,100	2,000	100	200
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,600	2,700	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,500	7,600	7,500	-100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,500	4,600	4,300	-100	200
Government	3,700	3,700	3,700	00	00

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 788 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,188 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN NOVEMBER 1964 AND NOVEMBER 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Nov. 1964		Nov. 1963		Nov. 1964		Nov. 1963		Nov. 1964				Nov. 1963				Wk. 12-4	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	83	22	75	17	318	63	353	51	19	9	28	10	45	7	52	10	196	334
Billings	834	155	657	96	2,224	457	2,090	357	541	109	650	201	503	113	616	161	1,243	893
Bozeman	248	55	172	27	398	89	316	55	129	38	167	31	154	29	183	28	241	169
Butte	450	58	391	58	1,087	161	1,045	180	107	7	114	22	105	13	118	27	491	557
Cut Bank	50	11	56	16	200	53	234	66	16	16	32	11	40	7	47	13	146	144
Dillon	76	21	67	25	171	45	143	41	34	42	76	19	22	42	64	21	112	103
Glasgow	70	5	65	7	204	16	199	31	78	8	86	14	74	13	87	29	193	154
Glendive	72	11	91	12	196	21	139	17	38	22	60	9	44	18	62	18	129	57
Great Falls	581	91	542	96	1,318	265	1,915	378	269	34	303	79	234	33	267	60	957	1,205
Hamilton	74	14	56	10	178	33	193	24	36	29	65	7	43	42	85	12	125	145
Havre	93	21	106	13	253	71	251	57	49	11	60	6	78	9	87	36	233	204
Helena	227	32	187	38	412	82	406	114	147	34	181	63	133	28	161	31	342	373
Kallispell	362	65	209	46	943	166	803	179	174	19	193	49	145	16	161	31	661	594
Lewistown	82	13	80	17	222	37	220	59	40	35	75	12	42	27	69	26	209	202
Livingston	41	7	53	5	228	43	274	32	65	9	74	13	63	10	73	9	173	216
Miles City	98	11	92	11	187	38	199	32	68	42	110	22	49	18	67	18	142	126
Missoula	487	93	451	61	1,033	178	871	64	292	26	318	62	506	24	530	74	486	474
Polson	50	7	63	12	170	36	231	55	16	3	19	2	28	2	30	8	150	150
Shelby	42	8	107	26	105	32	145	35	41	20	61	6	24	15	39	6	99	117
Sidney	74	10	50	11	133	17	108	13	56	15	71	9	41	18	59	20	107	55
Thomp. Falls	55	7	39	13	116	22	90	22	41	4	45	16	47	7	54	15	74	73
Wolf Point	100	21	67	15	191	42	171	41	43	16	59	13	49	46	95	20	161	167
TOTALS	4,249	738	3,676	632	10,287	1,967	10,396	1,903	2,299	548	2,847	676	2,469	537	3,006	673	6,670	6,512

*Includes 423 claims of the Fed. UC Program 590 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Nov. (1) 1964	Oct. (2) 1964	Nov. 1963	Nov. (1) 1964	Oct. (2) 1964	Nov. 1963	Nov. (1) 1964	Oct. (2) 1964	Nov. 1963
All Manufacturing	116.64	115.67	105.34	43.2	43.0	39.9	2.70	2.69	2.64
Durable Goods	118.72	120.58	104.26	44.8	45.5	40.1	2.65	2.65	2.60
Primary Metals	105.16	106.92	111.38	38.1	38.6	41.1	2.76	2.77	2.71
Nondurable Goods	112.07	106.62	107.05	40.9	39.2	39.5	2.74	2.72	2.71
Food and Kindred Products	95.30	91.60	92.23	41.8	40.0	40.1	2.28	2.29	2.30
All Mining	114.61	113.85	118.15	37.7	37.7	40.6	3.04	3.02	2.91
Metal Mining	107.16	107.16	117.60	35.6	35.6	39.2	3.01	3.01	3.00
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	106.40	108.19	106.26	38.0	38.5	39.5	2.80	2.81	2.69

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
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